(c) The PSUs *viz.* MMTC, PEC, STC and NAFED, were mandated to supply imported pulses to the State Governments for distribution through PDS. Of them only MMTC imported 4000 tonnes of Red Lentils during 2008-09 through Kolkata port for supply to the West Bengal Government for distribution through PDS.

Ban on export of rice, wheat and pulses

948. SHRI P. R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to stop export of rice, wheat and pulses; and

(b) if not, the reasons for not banning export of such items considering the shortfall in production and drought situation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Export of wheat, non-basmati rice and pulses (except kabuli chana) has been banned. The export of Wheat Floor (Maida), Samolina (Rava/Sirgi), Wholemeal atta and resultant atta has been allowed subject to limit of 6.50 lakh tons upto 31.03.2010.

(b) In view of sufficient availability and to enable farmers to get remunerative prices, the export of kabuli chana and basmati rice have been permitted.

Buffer stock of foodgrains

949. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total buffer stock of foodgrains in the country till October, 2009;

(b) the expected production of foodgrains in the current year;

(c) the expected consumption of foodgrains in the current year; and

(d) whether Government envisages the need to import foodgrains in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The stocks of foodgrains (rice and wheat) in the Central Pool as on 31.10.2009 were 216.21 lakh tons of rice and 268.88 lakh tons of wheat.

(b) The Targeted production of foodgrains during 2009-10, as per estimates of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is 239.10 million tons.

(c) As per the Report of the Planning Commission working group for the Eleventh Five year plan, the expected demand projections based on household consumption of foodgrains in the country during 2009-10 is 202.08 million tons including seed, feed and wastages requirements.

(d) Based on the present stocks of wheat and rice and estimates of rice procurement in

KMS 2009-10, there may not be any need to import these foodgrains for the Central Pool for meeting current level of allocations under TPDS and other welfare schemes.

Allotment of rice and wheat to Kerala

950. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has supplied the demanded quantity of rice and wheat to the State of Kerala for Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the details of demand, allocation and supply of rice and wheat to the State of Kerala for the last one year, month-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The allocations of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are not demand based. Allocations of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System are made based on approved norms *i.e.* @ 35 kg. per family per month for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by State Government, ***whichever is less.*** Accordingly, allocations of foodgrains for BPL and AAY categories are made @ 35 kg. per family per month for all accepted 15.54 lakh BPL/AAY families in Kerala. Allocations under APL category are made depending upon the availability of stocks of food grains in Central Pool and past offtake.

Existing monthly allocation of foodgrains under TPDS to Kerala for 2009-10 are as under:—

(Qty. in tons)

Commodity	AAY	BPL	APL
Rice	20855	26566	36056
Wheat	0	6963	11777
TOTAL:	20855	33529	47833

Kerala Government has requested for enhancement of APL rice allocation upto 113420 tons and wheat upto 37325 tons. Besides requests have been received for additional allocations of rice and wheat at APL rate on account of festivals, etc.

Considering the requests and availability of stocks in the Central Pool, the rice allocation for APL category to the State was increased to 3.51 lakh tons during 2008-09 as against 3.07 lakh tons during the year 2007-08. This is in addition to 1.61 lakh tons of wheat allocated in 2008-09 and 2.25 lakh tons in 2007-08. During the current year, the initial allocation of rice was 4.33 lakh tons and 1.41 lakh tons of wheat. With additional allocations of 50,000 tons of rice and 25,000